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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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9-24-1965

To: George Bailey

John Allen Chalk

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September 24, 1965

Mr. George Bailey  
666 E.N. 16th Street  
Abilene, Texas

Dear George:

I have intended writing you since returning from the Herald of Truth workshop, but all sorts of complicating situations have prevented my doing so until now. I wish it were possible to completely share my personal reactions to the elders' invitation for me to become a part of Herald of Truth radio. I am convinced that no one is more completely and heavily aware of my personal deficiencies than am I. Though these must be obvious to all who hear me, I am sure that they are not as completely obvious as they are within my own honest moments of self-reflection and meditation. I accepted the invitation with the understanding that the Highland elders would feel completely free to ask me to relinquish the work at any time they came to the conclusion that I was not doing an effective job. I could not even think of coming to this work without knowing that they would be ruthlessly frank, and I know the real possibility exists that within twelve or twenty-four months it may be necessary for me to no longer be a part of the program because of my own incapability.

The greatest burden as I see it is to, in some way, keep the brotherhood from being disappointed with my lessons over against the great sermons that you and Brother Baxter have preached on Herald of Truth. I know that both of you will provide no problem, but all three of us know that the brotherhood will be making comparisons that, many times, will leave me obviously on the short end. I, therefore, invite your criticisms, suggestions, and above all your prayers for my efforts in this area.

There are no two men in the brotherhood for whom I have greater respect than the two of you. The only way I can even justify accepting the invitation is that somewhere down the line I may be able to grow into a stature and spiritual capacity similar to the proportions that you and Brother Baxter have demonstrated to our brotherhood. Please accept

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this genuine request for your help and prayers. I urge your complete freedom to make any suggestions you feel necessary at any time that will make this program measure up to the standards you men have already set.

Your brother in Christ,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:mn